

**LAUREL SNOW POCKET WILDERNESS
CLASS II NATURAL-SCIENTIFIC STATE NATURAL AREA**

COUNTY: Rhea

OWNERSHIP: Bowater

7.5' QUADRANGLE: Morgan Springs

ACREAGE: 710 Acres

PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Cumberland Plateau

YEAR DESIGNATED: 1973

DESCRIPTION: Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness is a 710-acre natural area located in Rhea County. It is one of three designated state natural areas owned and managed by Bowater Incorporated. The natural area contains a section of gorges deeply cut into Walden Ridge of the Cumberland Plateau by Morgan, Henderson, Laurel, and Richland Creeks. The site is named after two scenic waterfalls, Laurel Falls (80 feet) and Snow Falls (35 feet). The area also features scenic creeks, overlooks, steep gorges, geologic features, a small stand of virgin timber, and a wide variety of plants and animals. Splendid views of gorges and Ridge and Valley landscapes can be seen from Snake Head and Buzzard Points.

Logging and deep mining took place in some portions of the area in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Some remnants of the mining activities can still be seen along the trail. Part of Henderson Creek was dammed to serve as the Dayton Reservoir and water supply for the town of Dayton. The low dam across the stream can still be seen although water is no longer collected for the town. The Laurel-Snow trail was the first National Recreation Trail designated in Tennessee.

SITE MANAGEMENT: Bowater Forest Products Division, Calhoun Woodlands Operations, 5020 Highway 11 South, Calhoun, TN 37309, phone (423) 336-7205. Division of Natural Heritage, 401 Church Street, 14th Floor L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0447, phone (615) 532-0431.

Public access allowed; parking and hiking trails provided. The natural area is operated as a Bowater Pocket Wilderness Areas with 11 miles of hiking trails, backcountry camping, and a picnic area available.

DIRECTIONS: Laurel-Snow is located north of Dayton. The Pocket Wilderness is accessed via Highway 27/29. From the north turn right, and from the south turn left, onto Walnut Grove Road (new Eckerd Drug on corner) north of Dayton. Proceed 3/4 of a mile to Back Valley Rd (pass La-Z-Boy factory) and turn left. On Back Valley Road proceed .7 miles to an unmarked gravel road/Richland Creek Road (small white church on the left) and turn right. Proceed about 1 mile to the parking area at the end of Richland Creek Road.